

**2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS)
and 2013 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) Conformity
Re-determination for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard**

Draft Final Report

I. INTRODUCTION

Transportation conformity is required under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to ensure that federally supported highway and transit project activities conform to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Conformity to the purpose of the SIP means that transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Conformity applies to non-attainment and maintenance areas for the following transportation-related criteria pollutants: ozone, particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the new 8-hour ozone NAAQS on March 27, 2008 [Federal Register (FR)/Vol. 73, No. 60]. Effective on May 27, 2008, the EPA action tightened the primary standard for the 8-hour ozone to 0.075 parts per million (ppm) and revised the secondary standard for the 8-hour ozone to be identical to the new primary standard.

Subsequently, EPA published a final rule in the Federal Register on May 21, 2012 establishing initial air quality designations for most areas in the United States including California for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard (FR/Vol. 77, No. 98).

In the SCAG region, seven areas were designated as non-attainment areas for the new 8-hour ozone standard with different classifications and different attainment years including:

- Imperial County – Classification Marginal; Attainment year 2015
- West Mojave Desert Air Basin – Classification Severe; Attainment year 2027
- South Coast Air Basin – Classification Extreme; Attainment year 2032
- Coachella Valley – Classification Severe; Attainment year 2027
- Ventura County – Classification Serious; Attainment year 2021
- Morongo Areas of Indian Country (Morongo Band of Mission Indians) – Classification Serious; Attainment year 2021
- Pechanga Areas of Indian Country (Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation) – Classification Moderate; Attainment year 2018

These new area designations became effective July 20, 2012. As a result, conformity needs to be re-determined for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP for the new 8-hour ozone standard by



July 20, 2013. This report covers the first five of the seven non-attainment areas. Conformity determination is also required for the two non-attainment areas of Indian Country. However, since these two non-attainment areas are in Indian Country, their conformity determinations may have different requirements and follow a different process and thus are not included in this report.

Under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Metropolitan Planning Regulations and U.S. EPA's Transportation Conformity Regulations, an RTP/FTIP conformity determination consists of five tests: consistency with the adopted RTP; regional emissions analysis; timely implementation of transportation control measures (TCMs); financial constraint; and interagency consultation and public involvement.

The ozone conformity re-determination reaffirms all applicable conformity findings for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP and addresses additional emissions analyses and interagency consultation and public involvement required for the new 8-hour ozone standard.

Conformity Status of the Currently Conforming RTP/SCS and FTIP

The effective date for the conformity determination for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP, including all of the air basins in the SCAG region, is June 4, 2012. The conformity determination is currently effective for four years; thus the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP conformity will remain effective until June 4, 2016.

The new 8-hour ozone conformity re-determination does not affect the existing conformity schedule for the RTP/SCS or FTIP. However, the new federal conformity regulation for ozone requires SCAG to make a positive conformity re-determination and receive approval from the U.S. DOT by July 20, 2013.

Process for Ozone Conformity Re-determination on the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP

1. Conduct interagency consultation through SCAG's Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) which includes representatives from the respective air quality and transportation planning agencies.
2. Perform regional emissions analysis. Since there are existing ozone emission budgets for all the ozone non-attainment areas, a budget test has been performed for all the areas.
3. Reaffirm the existing conformity findings for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP.
4. Release the draft conformity analysis and documentation for the new ozone standard for a public review and public comment period.
5. SCAG Energy and Environment Committee approves the conformity re-determination and recommends adoption by SCAG Regional Council.
6. SCAG Regional Council adopts the resolution making the final conformity re-determination.
7. Submit SCAG's Conformity Re-determination to federal agencies for approval.
8. Approval by the federal agencies by July 20, 2013.



Reaffirming Approved Conformity Findings for CO, NO₂, Ozone, and PM₁₀

The ozone conformity re-determination includes a re-affirmation of the approved conformity findings for both the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP as previously amended. This re-affirmation includes consistency with the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, regional emissions analyses including the new attainment years (2015, 2021, 2027, and 2032), financial constraint test, timely implementation of TCMs, and interagency consultation and public participation.

II. OZONE EMISSIONS ANALYSIS

Tables 1-5 below present the results of the budget tests for each of the five non-attainment areas for the new 2008 8-hour ozone standard. Note that the values of total emissions from the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP in the tables below utilize the rounding convention used by the California Air Resources Board to set the budgets (i.e., any fraction rounded up to the nearest ton) and are the basis of the conformity findings for these areas.

Table 1: Salton Sea Air Basin - Imperial County Portion 8-Hour Ozone (Summer Planning Emissions [Tons/Day])

Pollutant	2014	2015	2020	2030	2035
ROG 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	4.5	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.6
Total Emissions	5	5	4	4	4
Emission Budgets	7	7	7	7	7
Budget – Emissions	2	2	3	3	3

NOx 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	12.2	11.6	8.7	8.8	9.5
Total Emissions	13	12	9	9	10
Emission Budgets	17	17	17	17	17
Budget – Emissions	4	5	8	8	7



Table 2: West Mojave Desert Air Basin 8-Hour Ozone (Summer Planning Emissions [Tons/Day])

Pollutant	2014	2020	2027	2030	2035
ROG 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	12.1	9.4	8.1	7.9	7.7
Total Emissions	13	10	9	8	8
Emission Budgets	22	22	22	22	22
Budget – Emissions	9	12	13	14	14

NOx 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	33.2	23.2	19.8	20.0	21.9
Total Emissions	34	24	20	20	22
Emission Budgets	77	77	77	77	77
Budget – Emissions	43	53	57	57	55

Table 3: South Coast Air Basin 8-Hour Ozone (Summer Planning Emissions [Tons/Day])¹

Pollutant	2014	2017	2020	2023	2030	2032	2035
ROG 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	141.4	125.1	108.9	97.7	81.9	78.3	73.8
<i>Adjustments for Adopted State and Local On-road Measures*</i>	-0.6	-0.9	-1.1	-1.5	-1.5	n/a	-1.5
<i>State Strategy - On-road Reductions*</i>	-14.2	-11.5	-8.5	-6.2	-4.8	n/a	-4.3
Sum	126.6	112.7	99.3	90.0	75.6	78.3	68.0
Total Emissions	127	113	100	90	76	79	69
Emission Budgets	136	119	108	99	99	99	99
Budget – Emissions	9	6	8	9	23	20	30

NOx 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	280.4	230.4	180.1	155.1	123.7	120.0	118.3
<i>Adjustments for Adopted State and Local On-road Measures*</i>	-1.4	-1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	n/a	-0.1
<i>State Strategy - On-road Reductions*</i>	-22.3	-18.8	-15.6	-31.9	-18.5	n/a	-14.9
Sum	256.7	210.6	164.4	123.1	105.1	120.0	103.3
Total Emissions	257	211	165	124	106	120	104
Emission Budgets	277	224	185	140	140	140	140
Budget – Emissions	20	13	20	16	34	20	36

¹ The 2012 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP emissions and the emission budgets cover both the South Coast Air Basin nonattainment area as well as the two Indian nonattainment areas (Morongo and Pechanga).



Table 4: Salton Sea Air Basin - Coachella Valley Portion 8-Hour Ozone (Summer Planning Emissions [Tons/Day])

Pollutant	2012	2014	2020	2027	2030	2035
ROG 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	5.8	5.2	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.4
Total Emissions	6	6	5	4	4	4
Emission Budgets	7	7	7	7	7	7
Budget – Emissions	1	1	2	3	3	3

NOx 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	20.7	17.9	11.8	10.0	10.1	10.6
Baseline Adjustment	-2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sum	18.7	17.9	11.8	10.0	10.1	10.6
Total Emissions	19	18	12	10	11	11
Emission Budgets	26	26	26	26	26	26
Budget – Emissions	7	8	14	16	15	15

Table 5: South Central Coast Air Basin - Ventura County Portion 8-Hour Ozone (Summer Planning Emissions [Tons/Day])

Pollutant	2014	2020	2021	2030	2035
ROG 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	8.6	6.8	6.5	5.0	4.3
Total Emissions	9	7	7	5	5
Emission Budgets	13	13	13	13	13
Budget – Emissions	4	6	6	8	8

NOx 2012 RTP/SCS 2013 FTIP	13.2	8.6	8.1	5.8	5.2
Total Emissions	14	9	9	6	6
Emission Budgets	19	19	19	19	19
Budget – Emissions	5	10	10	13	13

III. CONFORMITY RE-DETERMINATION

SCAG has determined the following conformity findings for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP under the required federal tests for the new ozone standard:

Regional Emissions Tests

- Finding: The regional emissions for the ozone precursors from the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP meet all applicable emission budget tests for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years for the Imperial County, the West Mojave Desert Air Basin, the South Coast Air Basin, the Coachella Valley portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin, and the Ventura County for the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

Re-affirmation of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and 2013 FTIP Conformity Tests

- Finding: SCAG reaffirms the applicable conformity findings for both the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS (http://rtpscs.scag.ca.gov/Documents/2012/final/SR/2012fRTP_TransportationConformityReport.pdf) and the 2013 FTIP (http://www.scag.ca.gov/ftip/pdf/final/2013/Final2013FTIP_TA_Sec01.pdf).
- This reaffirmation covers the findings of all applicable pollutants, including consistency with the adopted 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, regional emissions analyses, financial constraint test, timely implementation of TCMs, and interagency consultation and public participation.

Inter-agency Consultation and Public Involvement Test

- Finding: In addition to reaffirming the public involvement and interagency consultation test for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and the 2013 FTIP, the 8-hour ozone conformity re-determination will undergo an appropriate process for interagency consultation and public participation. This process includes TCWG consultations on January 22, 2013 and February 26, 2013. This draft conformity re-determination report was released for a 15-day public review period. No comments were received by the close of the public comment period. The final conformity re-determination report will be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environment Committee and Regional Council on March 7, 2013 for approval.

